

with unusual powers, in consequence of which the Directors have issued the shares, representing the capital of the Corporation, and received subscriptions from an influential body of proprietors, who have invested a large capital in the purchase of estates in the Province of Gaspé, with a view to prosecute those fisheries; have engaged with and sent out agents and officers; and taken all necessary steps to carry out those objects in consideration of which Her Majesty's Government were pleased to grant them the privileges referred to.

These objects, I beg leave to represent to your Lordship, will be entirely frustrated should your Lordship's alleged intentions be adopted even in part. It is impossible, even with the existing Law, for the Colonists to resist the inroads of the Americans, who are in the habit of practising that lawless violence which power and numbers enable them to use without fear of reprisal; and it was essentially and permanently to combat the injury thus sustained by British subjects, that Her Majesty's Government conferred such powers on the Company. These the Directors, unanimously and gratefully supported by the Canadian Legislature and the Colonists, have taken steps, at a great expense, to render as effectual as possible; but their past and future efforts will be rendered entirely abortive, and the capital so expended will be entirely lost, if the measure, which it is reported that your Lordship has in contemplation, pass into law; for not only will the prosperity of every capitalist, connected with the trade, and fisherman throughout the British American possessions, receive a death-blow, from which recovery will be impracticable, and an industrious maritime population, whose importance in time of war has been universally acknowledged, be assuredly dispersed, but, I would submit to your Lordship, that a tacit agreement, if I may be allowed so to call it, entered into between Her Majesty's Government and this Company, which I have the honour to represent, will be completely abrogated, to our utter ruin, in common with the many thousands of Her Majesty's subjects, who depend for subsistence entirely upon those waters, to whose supplies, within certain fixed limits, however inefficiently protected, they have heretofore looked up to as sacredly secure to them.

It is to lay before your Lordship further information in reference to this important subject that I respectfully entreat your Lordship to grant us the interview I ask for, and trusting the anxiety we must naturally feel in a manner involving as it does our ruin or prosperity may plead my excuse for earnestly requesting your Lordship's early attention to my communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD NORMAN.

No. 117.

Viscount Palmerston to Mr. Crampton.

(No. 28.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 18, 1849.

I TRANSMIT herewith to you copies of a letter and of its inclosures, which have been received from the Colonial Office, requesting, for the information of the Legislature of Newfoundland, a statement, showing what bounties and drawbacks are granted by the United States' Government in support of their fisheries on the coast of Newfoundland.

And I have to instruct you to procure and transmit to me the most authentic information which you may be able to obtain, in answer to the questions, on this subject asked by the authorities of Newfoundland.

I am, &c.
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 118.

Mr. Crampton to Viscount Palmerston.—(Received July 11.)

(No. 60.)

My Lord,

Washington, June 25, 1849.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of the reply which has been made by the Treasury Department of the United States to the application which, in obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 28 of the 18th ultimo, I addressed to that Department for a statement showing, for the information of the